

b. For purposes of evaluating and certifying compliance with training standards, the following individuals are recognized as “evaluating officials” for OPD:

- i. the Chief Public Defender,
- ii. the Training Coordinator,
- iii. the Conflict Coordinator (for conflict contract attorneys), and
- iv. such Regional Deputy Public Defenders as are specifically appointed as “evaluating officials” by the Chief Public Defender,

c. “Demonstrating proficiency in the specific field of practice” means:

- i. the attorney provides the OPD with written evidence of case experience in the specific field of practice within the preceding 12 months; and
- ii. the attorney has been observed in court by an OPD evaluating official.

d. For purposes of this requirement, the following are identified as “specific fields of practice:”

- i. Representing defendants in criminal cases in Montana state courts, including in sentence review;
- ii. Representing respondents facing involuntary commitment by Montana state courts on grounds of mental illness;
- iii. Representing respondents facing involuntary commitment by Montana state courts on grounds of developmental disability;
- iv. Representing juveniles in youth court proceedings in Montana state courts;
- v. Representing parents in dependency and neglect cases in Montana state courts;
- vi. Representing wards in guardianship and conservatorship cases in Montana state courts;
- vii. Representing minors in Montana state court proceedings who are voluntarily committed to a mental health facility;
- viii. Representing individuals facing involuntary commitment (alcohol) by Montana state courts;
- ix. Representing individuals in Montana state courts in proceedings to determine parentage under the Uniform Parentage Act;
- ~~x. Cultural competency;~~
- ~~xi. x.~~ Appellate advocacy; and
- ~~xii. xi.~~ Post conviction practice
- xii. Representation of individuals who are in a cultural, religious, or racial minority in any of the above fields of practice.

e. An attorney deemed “compliant with training standards” in one or more specific fields of practice shall still complete training requirements in any specific field(s) in which the attorney has not been deemed “compliant with training standards” in order to be assigned cases in such other field(s).